

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009291
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DRAFTED BY AF:RTIERNEY

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.

S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 009291

NODIS

PRETORIA FOR EDMONDSON ONLY, USUN FOR SCRANTON

FOL RPT LONDON 00695 ACTION SECSTATE 14 JAN QUOTE

S E C R E T LONDON 00695

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: BRITISH TACTICS

REF: A) STATE 8754, AND B) STATE 8755

DEPARTMENT PASS TO EDMONDSON

1. EMBASSY OFFICER SAW TONY DUFF JANUARY 14 AND CON-
VEYED THE DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR RECEIVING THE
NEW BRITISH PAPER. ASKED IF THE PAPER HAD NOW BEEN

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APPROVED, DUFF ANSWERED THAT CROSLAND HAS ENDORSED IT
BUT IT STILL AWAITS THE DECISION OF THE PRIME MINISTER.
HE IS NOT CERTAIN WHEN CALLAGHAN WILL BE ABLE TO REVIEW
THE PAPER AND THE FCO RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH MAKES
RICHARD'S SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY HIS DATE WITH THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT, MORE UNCERTAIN. RICHARD HAS BEEN IN-
FORMED THAT HE MAY YET AGAIN HAVE TO REVISE OR DELAY HIS

ITINERARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER THEN RAISED REFTEL B AND ASKED THE STATUS OF THE ASSURANCES FOR THE WHITE COMMUNITY. SINCE THE ASSURANCES ARE ESSENTIAL TO WINNING SOUTH AFRICAN AND RHODESIAN ACCEPTANCE OF ANY NEW PROPOSALS, DUFF WAS ASKED WHETHER OR HOW RICHARD MIGHT INTRODUCE THE ISSUE DURING HIS NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. DUFF SAID THAT ASSURANCES ON CIVIL RIGHTS, THE JUDICATURE ETC. FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY AS OTHER MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUES SUCH AS THE INTEGRATION OF THE MILITARY AND THE FINANCIAL ASSURANCES INCLUDED IN THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND. "THESE ARE ALL TO COME," HE SAID, "AND IVOR WILL HAVE TO PLAY THEM AS SEEMS NECESSARY." EMBASSY OFFICER COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE IN THE NEW PAPER THAT WOULD BE LIKELY TO ATTRACT VORSTER OR SMITH UNLESS SUPPLEMENTED BY SOME INDICATION OF OFF-SETTING ASSURANCES, AND THAT IN FACT "BANKABLE ASSURANCES" SEEMED FOR THE MOMENT TO BE THE WIDEST CRACK IN VORSTER'S DOOR. DUFF ANSWERED THAT TACTICAL DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE LEFT TO RICHARD BUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S POINT IS WELL TAKEN. HE WILL PASS OUR CONCERN ON TO RICHARD AND SUGGESTED THAT EDMONDSON ALSO DISCUSS IT WHEN HE NEXT SEES THE BRITISH PARTY.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER THEN RAISED REFTEL A AND CONVEYED OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT RICHARD SEE VORSTER BEFORE SMITH. DUFF SAID HE HAD ALREADY BEEN ALERTED TO THIS CONCERN BY A REPORT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED ON A SECRET

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JANUARY 12 SCHAUFEL-RAMSBOTHAM CONVERSATION. HE SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF OUR CONCERN. RICHARD'S ITINERARY STILL HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED IN LONDON, HE WENT ON, AND THE FINAL DECISION WILL INEVITABLY BE "BOUND UP IN OTHER THINGS," SUCH AS THE MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE TWO WHITE LEADERS. HE SAID IT IS CLEAR THAT VORSTER IS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY NEW SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT FIRST HAVING SMITH'S REACTION. MOREOVER, VORSTER WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO PRESSURE SMITH, IF EVER, UNTIL THERE ARE SOME DEFINITE PROPOSALS, AND RICHARD OF COURSE IS ONLY EXPLORING, NOT NEGOTIATING. EMBASSY OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT SMITH WAS A SURE BET TO REJECT ANY IDEAS RICHARD MIGHT PUT FORWARD UNLESS THERE WAS AT LEAST A HINT THAT VORSTER VIEWED THE PROPOSALS WITH SOME SYMPATHY OR INTEREST. DUFF REPEATED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONCERN SAYING THE POINT WAS "WELL TAKEN" AND WOULD FORM PART OF HMG'S CONSIDERATIONS.

ARMSTRONG

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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